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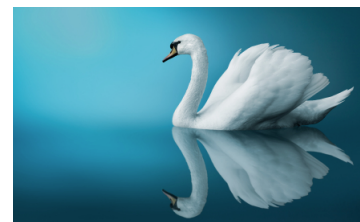
AN ANONYMOUS ANIMAL HERO

The Mysterious Founder of the Nuneaton Warwickshire Animal Sanctuary

By Erin Caslavka

Sometimes stories come to us with missing or erroneous pieces of information, most often as the result of the tale being told over and again over by different storytellers.

Still, it's unusual to come across the story of someone who's acted with kindness and a giving heart, that leaves us wondering who the "hero" of the tale actually is...



A small entry in a local paper had alerted me to the tale of a sweet-faced, doe-eyed greyhound named Jasmine. The tan-and-white-coated dog had come to an English animal sanctuary as a rescued pet, and the sanctuary took her in just as they had all the others who lived there.

Jasmine took to her new home with the heart of a true survivor. Not only did she learn to trust and love the human companions who'd saved her from her neglectful owner, but she quickly became an adoptive mother to a variety of rescued wildlife and domestic animals who live at the shelter.



Photos accompanying the article showed Jasmine - eyes black as coal, ears cocked to one side - literally "fawning" over Bramble, a baby deer that the sanctuary had also taken in. Others showed Jasmine standing alongside Roxy (a fox that had been found tied to a fence and left there), or nestling with a tawny-colored rabbit named Belle.

Curious about the founder of the sanctuary, and wanting to learn more about its mission, I did a web search and discovered the site for the Nuneaton Warwickshire Wildlife Sanctuary (NWWS) in Great Britain. The impetus for its formation came in 2000, when an injured swan was treated by local vets but then put to sleep because there was nowhere to take him while he healed. In

February 2001, the Warwickshire Wildlife Sanctuary (its name has since been changed) was founded, opening their doors "to wildlife casualties."

Over the course of five years, they took in 320 swans (most injuries were due to human actions), and as of late 2001 the NNWS also began taking in domestic animals. The sanctuary is also highly appreciative of the Oakfield Veterinary Group, which they state is a fundamental reason behind their ability to provide help for the animals.

As much as the sanctuary works to provide a name for each animal it showcases - providing information about how they came to arrive at the facility, and what the individual circumstances are that led to it being there - there is hardly any information about Geoff Grewcock, the original owner of the Warwickshire Wildlife Sanctuary, nor any of the others who work to make a better life for the animals they rescue.

“This is not about the Founders,” reads the *About the Founders* section of the site. “This is only about the Animals. We must never forget that...The men and women who make up the rescue community are rebels. As rebels go, we may be somewhat unconventional. But one trait that draws us together, compels us to aid animals in need and separates us from non-rescuers, is that we have said ‘No.’ Commitment, dedication and tenacity can overcome what is difficult and impractical and make the seemingly impossible - possible.”

So as much as we would like to try attention to the founder(s) of the NNWS, the true hero(s) of this story have chosen to remain anonymous. And with all true gifts from the heart, isn't that the way it should be?

If you'd like to learn more about the Nuneaton Warwickshire Wildlife Sanctuary and how you can help them directly (they run entirely on donations), go to: www.nuneatonwildlife.com/ContactUs.html

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Photos credits: iStockphoto.com; courtesy of NNWS



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